

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Bendele et al.

Serial No .:

09/907,263

Group Art Unit No.:

1646

Filed:

July 17, 2001

Examiner:

E. B. O'Hara

For:

COMBINATION THERAPY USING A TNF

BINDING PROTEIN FOR TREATING

TNF-MEDIATED DISEASES

RECEIVED

MAY 1 4 2003

Docket No.:

A-430F

TECH CENTER 1600/290

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2002, Paper No. 12, please amend this application as follows:

In the Specification

At page 1, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

This application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/326,394 filed June 4, 1999, now United States Patent No. 6,306,820, which is a continuation of PCT/US97/22733, filed December 8, 1997, which claims benefit to U.S. Provisional Serial No. 60/032,587, filed December 6, 1996, U.S. Provisional Serial No. 60/036,355, filed January 23, 1997, U.S. Provisional Serial No. 60/039,315, filed February 7, 1997 and U.S. Provisional Serial No. 60/052,023, filed July 9, 1997, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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05/12/2003 SSITHIBI 00000068 010519

Appl. No. 09/830,709 Amdt. dated May 8, 2003 Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2003

In order to anticipate Applicants' claims, Young et al. must disclose each and every element set forth in the claim. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Young et al. does not teach a DNA molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hiller et al., Database EST, May 21, 1996. Claim 10 has been canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion:

In light of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants' assert the claims are in condition for allowance. Removal of all rejections and early notice of allowable claims is requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for clarification of any of these Remarks or Amendments, or to otherwise speed prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

(612) 332-5300

Date: 12003

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Michael D. Schumann

Reg. No. 30,422

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